

Accompanying Documents

The following documents accompany this response:

- 1) Copy of the currently pending claims; and
- 2) Marked-up version of the claims including the amendments made

herein.

AMENDMENT

Please amend claims 20 and 56 as follows:

20. (Twice amended) An assay kit for detecting the presence of a hepatitis C virus (HCV) glycoprotein having mannose-terminated glycosylation, wherein less than about 10% of the total N-linked carbohydrate on said HCV glycoprotein is sialic acid, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is selected from the group consisting of a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV, a glycoprotein expressed from the E2 region of HCV, and aggregates thereof, said kit comprising:

a solid support;

B¹ a mannose-binding protein; and an isolated antibody directed against said HCV glycoprotein;

wherein one of said antibody and said mannose binding protein is bound to said solid support.

56. (Amended) An isolated antibody directed against a hepatitis C virus (HCV) glycoprotein having mannose-terminated glycosylation, wherein less than about 10% of the total N-linked carbohydrate on said HCV glycoprotein is sialic acid, wherein said HCV glycoprotein is selected from the group consisting of a glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV, a glycoprotein expressed from the E2 region of HCV, and aggregates thereof, and further wherein said HCV glycoprotein is produced by the method comprising the steps of:

B² growing a host cell transformed with a structural gene encoding an HCV glycoprotein expressed from the E1 region of HCV or the E2 region of HCV in a suitable culture medium;

causing expression of said structural gene, under conditions inhibiting sialylation; and

isolating said HCV glycoprotein from said cell culture by contacting said HCV glycoprotein with a mannose-binding protein specific for mannose-terminated glycoproteins, and isolating the protein that binds to said mannose-binding protein.

Please cancel claims 44-55 without prejudice and without disclaimer.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims, specification and drawings by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"